

REMARKS

Claims 17-24 and 26-31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1, 3, 6, 8-12, and 15 and as such Claims 17-24 and 26-31 have been removed from consideration in the instant application.

In light of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the application now stands in prima facie condition for allowance and courteously requests that this application be advanced to issue. The Applicants are of the opinion that no additional fees are required with the submission of this amendment. However, if additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby respectfully authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account Number 13-2166. The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative, Taras P. Bemko, at 713-355-4200, to discuss any matters, that may arise, where such discussion may resolve such matters and place this application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date Feb 3, 2006

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